# Global Issues: Local Teaching

Clark Erwin-Billones

# We Teach Because...

- Many of us are interested in improving the world

- We care about the future of our earth, country, and community

- We want people (students) to be educated, make smart decisions, and live productive and satisfying lives

- Service-learning is a great way to combine these points

# Vocabulary Related to Service-Learning

- **Volunteering**

  Unpaid work, usually helping because you care
  (reading to students, taking care of animals)

- **Community Service**

  Improving the area/city you live in
  (picking up trash, planting trees)

- **Service-Learning**

  Direct volunteer service (physical work) combined with learning
  and reflection (thinking about what you learned)

# Global Issues: Local Teaching

- Service-learning is a way to bring global issues into education

- Students learn about real problems and are part of the solution

- Teaching and learning can become 'hands-on' and active, which engages students in the subject and in global issues
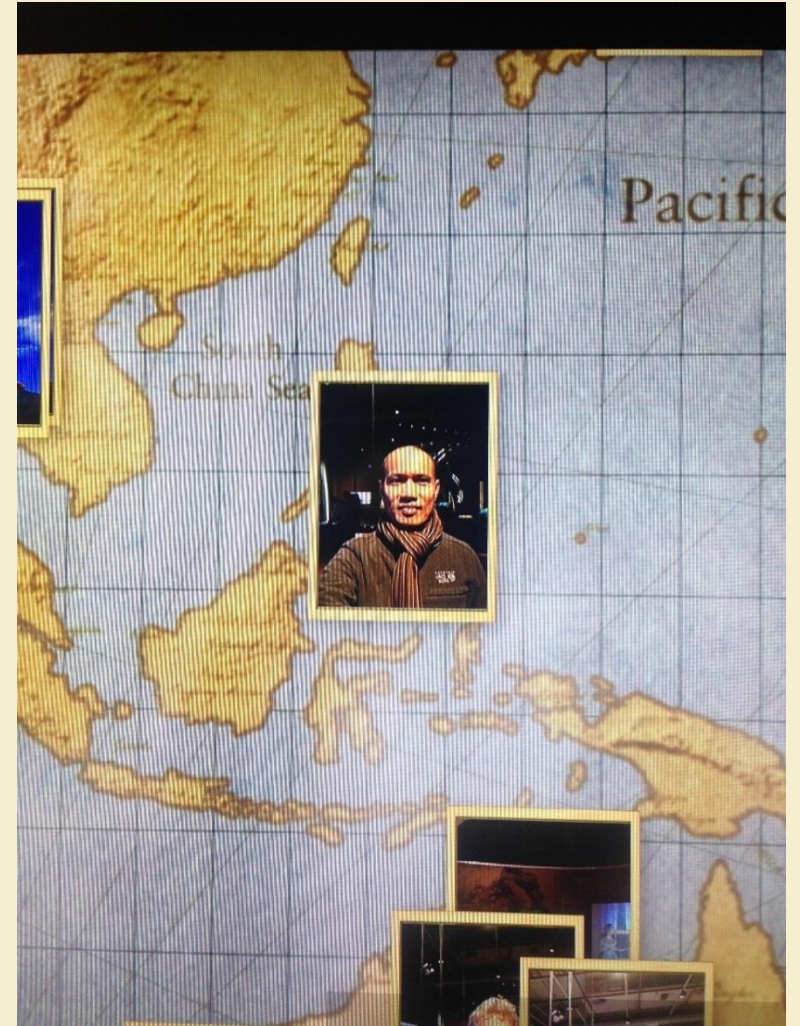


Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones

# Volunteer Views and Data

- U.S. Americans like to volunteer

- Countries and cultures have different ideas and beliefs about volunteering

- My experience and ideas come from my U.S. view

**According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics…**

- 25% of U.S. Americans volunteered in 2015 (the last year reported) or about 63 million people

- Teenagers (16-19 years old) had one of the highest volunteer rates in the U.S. (26.4%) https://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm

# This Hour, We Will Discuss...

**Global Issues (whole world)...**

- That affect your community
- To bring into the classroom
- That are interesting to students

**Local Teaching (your class/community)...**

- That uses English communication
- That involves a service-learning project
- That uses student-centered projects

# Specific Goals for this Hour

- To be able to learn about what service-learning is and see examples at different educational levels

- To learn about the main steps to build in service-learning and/or student-centered activities into your classroom/club

- To be able to understand how service-learning activities can help students learn English

# Language Goals

- Increase students' use of English in communicative discussions around global issues

- Improve students' comprehension in using English to give directions, follow instructions, and ask and answer questions around specific tasks

- Encourage students to express their feelings and opinions while using English

# Service-Learning Basics

Students should…

1. Find a project to participate in

2. **L**earn about the issue
(articles, videos, presentation, speakers)

3. Participate in service project (most were 2-3 hours total)

4. **R**eflect on what they did and **evaluate** their work and opinions

# Service-Learning Examples

Primary – Secondary
and
University – Adult

# Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup



Photo by: kennethkonica, from Photopin, February 2017.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/38912465@N00/33137754445

Students **learn** about:

- Plants and animals in a local nature area

- Pollution and garbage globally and/or locally

- Why you shouldn't throw trash on the ground

# Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup



Photo by: NASAKennedy, from Photopin, April 2017. http://www.flickr.com/photos/108488366@N07/33908440461

**Earth Day is April 22**
**http://www.earthday.org/**

- **Service:** Students go to a nature area to pick up trash

- **Duration:** 1-2 hours service plus transportation time

# Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup



World Bank Photo Collection, from Photopin, January 2008.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/10816734@N03/2183616946

**Evaluate by…**
- Counting how many pieces of trash they pick up, weighing it, finding the heaviest piece, adding it together (math)

- Guessing/hypothesizing why trash is in nature (science)

- Creating solutions for this problem (language arts)

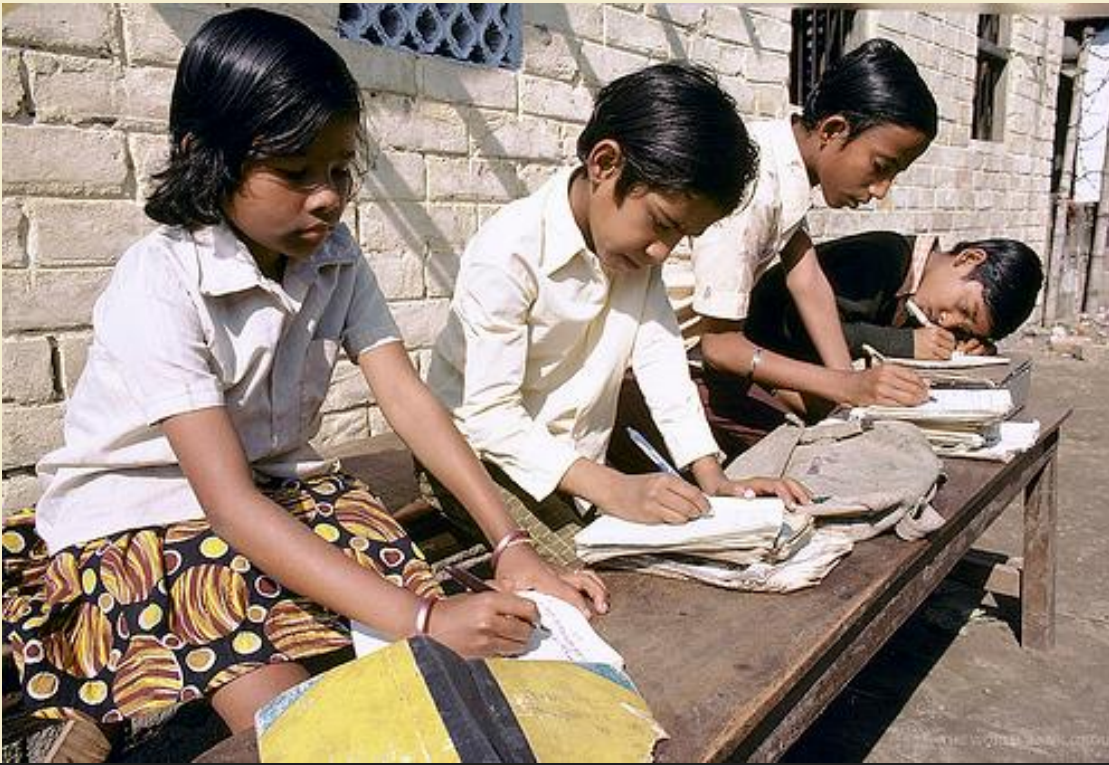# Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup



Photo by: World Bank Photo Collection, January 2008.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/10816734@N03/2183616946

**Reflect by:**

- Thinking about the importance of the project

- Sharing what they learned

- Discussing how they felt

- Giving their opinions

# Where to Start?: Think About…

- Big events or projects that happen once a year that relate to your curriculum

- A local problem that students could create a solution for

- A global problem that students can create local awareness of
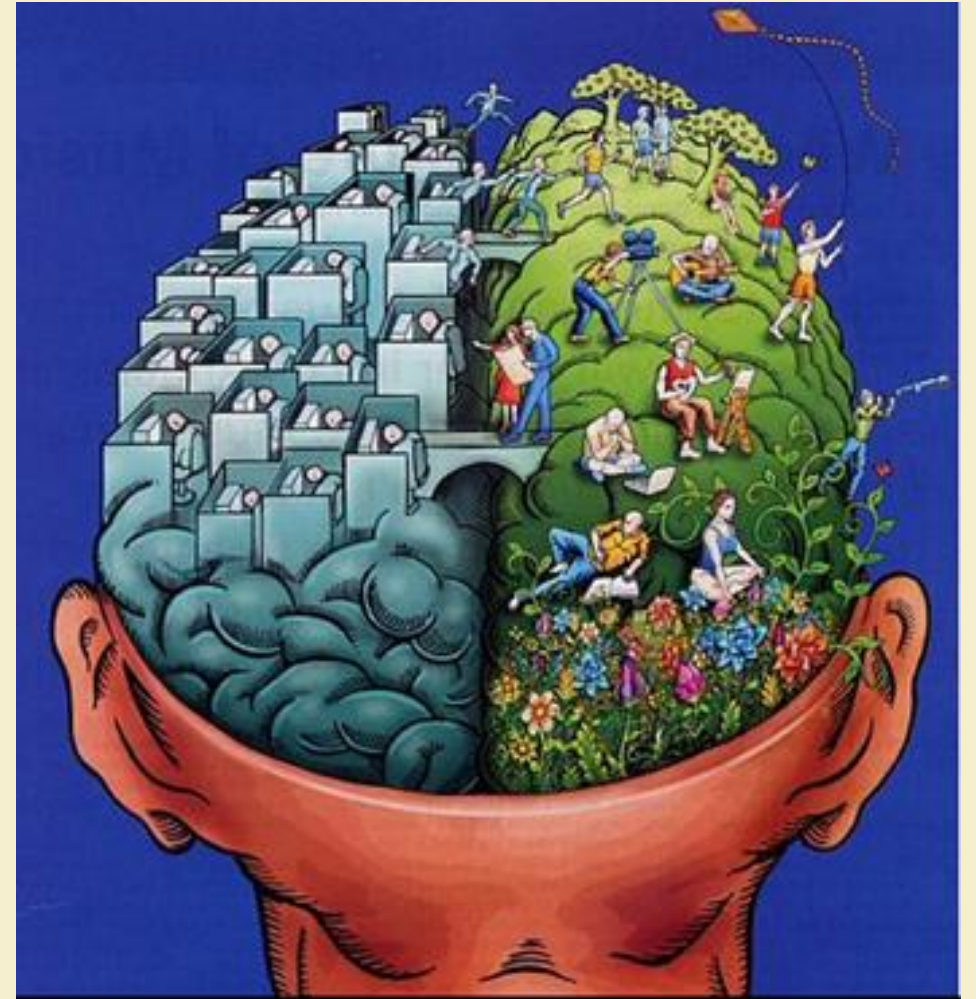


"Brain" by TZA, from PhotosForClass.com, January 2009.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/tza/3214197147/

# Service-Learning with University Students

# What I Did: Service-Learning Component

I made the service-learning project **student-centered**

Students participated in:

• Planning (researching, presentations)

• Decision-making (which project, when?)

• Activities (learning and service)

• Assessments (evaluations and reflections)

# Student-Centered Service-Learning

| September | October | November | December | January |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Form groups | Choose a project | Give presentation<br><br>Evaluate peer presentations | Learn more about the project/topic | Service-learning reflection |
| Research ideas, NGOs, events | Meet and interview organization or staff | Vote on project<br><br>Coordinate logistics | Service-learning project | Class reflection |
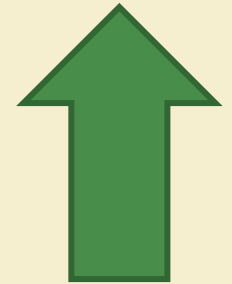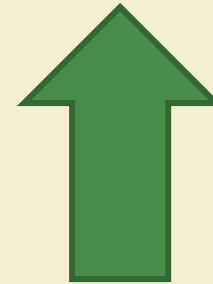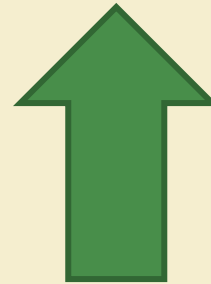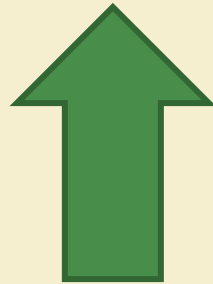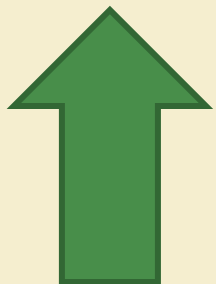
# Language Learning Activities…

| September | October | November | December | January |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Learn vocabulary<br><br>Comprehension activities | Read an article and present it to a group | Give presentation on a service proposal<br><br>Evaluate peers | Watch a video and discuss a global topic | Service-learning reflection write-up |
| Guest speaker visit<br><br>Letter writing | Interview an expert and share with the class | Vote on project<br><br>Plan logistics in groups | Service-learning Project | Class reflection |

# Student Proposals


Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones

- Share the students' proposals
- Think about what parts of this project may work in your classroom

# Student Project Proposals

- Volunteering for a 10K race that raises money for suicide prevention

- Volunteering to cook and spend time with people at a homeless shelter

- Starting a school club which promotes education and activities to combat a global issue (climate change, child nutrition)

- Collecting art supplies to give to children and decorating the suitcase we send them in

- Participating in an environmental project with children at a local nature area

# Evaluating: Proposals and Presentations

- All requirements included (rubric)

- Presentation skills (body language)

- Project interest, time required

- Students voted on which project the class would participate in



Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones

# The Students Voted For...

The Winner:

- Collecting art supplies for children!



Image Credit: COW

# The Project...

1. We read information about where the supplies were going

2. We collected supplies from family, friends, schools, etc.

3. We met and decorated 2 suitcases that would travel with a student group

4. We stuffed the suitcases with art supplies and gave them to the travelers



Photo Credit: Color Our World

5. Students wrote a reflection/evaluation paper about the course goals (1 page) and this project (1 page)

# The End Result:

Young students creating art work with new art supplies



Color
Our
World

art that **moov**es

Photo Credit: Color Our World

Spring 2014 Service Learning Project for IU 180: Globalization and My University

# Evaluation and Reflection

**The students were required to write about:**

- Their experiences

- Their thoughts and feelings

- The project requirements

- The best and worst

- Something they learned

- What do you think about the COW project?

- Did it involve education, direct service, and reflection?

**Motivation and Inspiration**

Service-Learning ?

# Why Promote Service-Learning #1

- Helps to improve the world

- Students learn about issues that affect them (reading articles, watching videos, doing service)

- Thinking, writing, discussing ideas and solutions

Photo Credits: Clark Erwin-Billones

# Why Promote Service-Learning #2

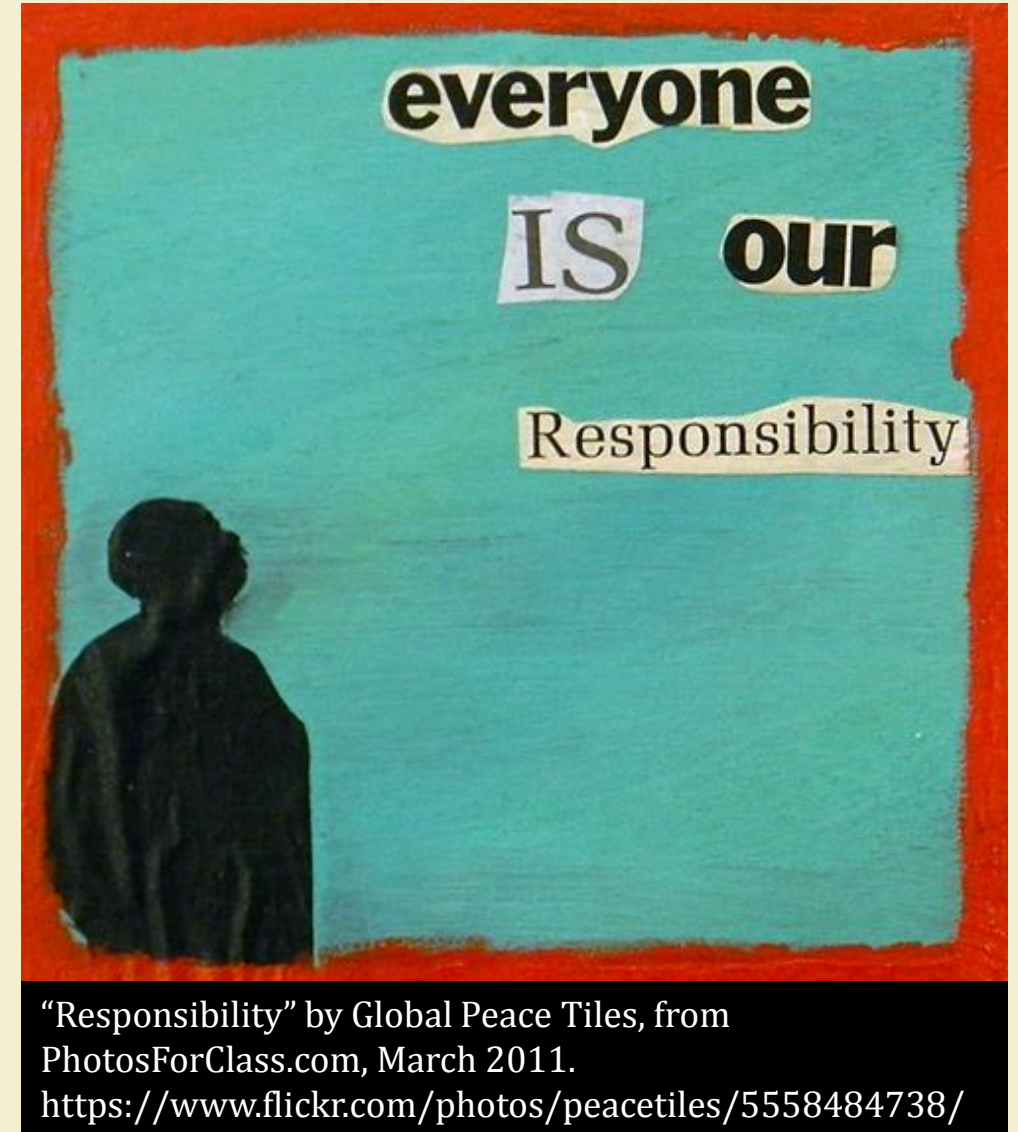- Builds relationships
  ...Among students
  ...With the community
  ...With organizations
  ...With yourself

- Encourages English communication during the project with questions, directions, and conversations

- Students can write down new words and find definitions



Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones

- Students can talk with the community members or organization staff to learn something new

# Why Promote Service-Learning #3

- Develops civic responsibility (how to be a good citizen) by
  …Teaching that everyone can make a difference
  …Gaining a sense of accomplishment by doing work and seeing results

- Students can discuss or write up solutions to the problems they learn about

- They can write a poem, song, or rap

- They can write an article about the issue and share it



"Responsibility" by Global Peace Tiles, from PhotosForClass.com, March 2011.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/peacetiles/5558484738/

# Why Promote Service-Learning #4

- Engages students by
  … Getting students moving and doing (kinesthetic learning)

  …Doing real work with real consequences (good ones)

  …Building confidence in different ways than in the classroom through
    - problem solving (moving things)
    - using different strengths/skill sets
    - developing leadership qualities



"Students working in nursery" by treesftf, from PhotosForClass.com, March 2009.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant-trees/3343453750/

# Why Promote Service-Learning #5

- Participants develop critical thinking skills by

  …Evaluating the criteria that makes a good service project

  …Evaluating the project parts like the organization, the timing, etc.

  …Reflecting on their service and their experiences

  …Reflecting on what they learned

- Students can complete writing, journal entries, discussions, formal assessments

## EVALUATION

**Developing opinions, judgements, or decisions**

Do you agree that _____? Explain.

What do you think about _____?

What is most important?

Prioritize _____ according to _____?

How would you decide about _____?

What criteria would you use to assess _____?

"Evaluation" by Enokson, from PhotosForClass.com, September 2011.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/vblibrary/6198416827/

# Design a Service-Learning Project...

That fits your needs and your students' needs!

• Try some student-centered activities

• Know what your students can do and what is possible (primary vs. secondary vs. university)

• Ask your students what they are interested in

• Listen to your students opinions and ideas

# How to Get Started with Service-Learning

Think about different ideas about bringing service-learning into your classroom

• Connect to the curriculum

• Project organizer (you, students, organization)



"PAN 2001-010-S20" by Peace Corps, from PhotosForClass.com, May 2010. https://www.flickr.com/photos/peacecorps/4578536375/

# Where to Start: Origins of Service

- Religious group

- Fundraising group

- Schools

- Medical organization

- Community organization

- Social advocates/NGOs (environment, animals, social issues)



Photo credit: CC0 Creative Commons

# How to Plan a Service-Learning Project



"Service Project" by wittco.gmbh, from PhotosForClass.com, February 2014.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/wittcogmbh/12707174404

Think about the type of project work

• Skills or training needed

• Clothing or equipment

• Indoor or outdoor temperature

• Water and food available

# Brainstorm a Service-Learning Project

- Global problems or issues that you teach

- Curriculum topics that could involve a service-learning project

- Focus on creating ideas (brainstorming)

- Think for 2 minutes

- Don't worry if these ideas don't work

- There are no wrong answers in brainstorming!

**Consider These:**

- Social Activities

- Fun Factor

- Student Interests

- Community Needs

- Curriculum Requirements

# **List Your Ideas**

On a piece of paper write down 3-5 issues or volunteer groups you might partner with:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Photo credit: CC0 Public Domain

# Global Activities in Your Classroom/Club

Choose a language learning activity that:

- Relates to a global issue

- Uses communicative language practice

Take a minute or two to think of an activity and then you can share it.

# Service-Learning Extension Ideas

- Explore a nature area for insects and plants near the school

- Learn about the plants and insects found

- Sketch pictures of plants and insects

- Research what was found

- Back in class, students describe their drawings to the class along with information about what they learned from their research

# Global/Local Issue Project Ideas

- Identify global/local issues

- Poll community members (classmates) about the biggest issues

- Interview family, friends, classmates about their opinions

| Air Pollution | Car Accidents | Plastics in Sea |
|---|---|---|
| Marta | Thomas | Karina |
| Pierre | Luda | Maria |

- Record data on a graph

- Report on data (how many people voted for each issue)

- Share opinions and present their data and ideas to the class

# A Guest Speaker Visits

- A guest speaker comes in to present information on an issue

- Ask questions in English, if possible

- Research solutions and discuss in class

- Write thank you letters to the speaker

- Students peer correct letters editing for spelling

# Controversial Issue Project Ideas

• Learn about journalism writing and bias/neutrality

• Research an issue

• Watch a news story online about the issue

• Students get into groups of…agree, disagree, neutral or ???

• Write an article in groups that reflects their point of view

• Read it to the class

• Evaluate if they were neutral or biased

# Global Issue Related Project Ideas

- Learn about a health or safety issue  (article and facts about malaria)

- Work in pairs to create a campaign to educate the public on the issue

- Design materials including a slogan, song, and mini-poster with 3 facts about malaria

- Present it to the class

# Tips, Techniques, and Reflection…

Let's look closer at some ideas to make things easier

# I Am Not an Expert, But I Know Experts

Ask guest speakers to join the class!

- Talk about a global/local issue

- Share experiences, stories, photos, videos, or realia (real objects from their work)

- Leave time for discussion student questions



"Local Books for Local Audiences" by USAID Africa, from PhotosForClass.com, September 2013. https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidafrica/97338 34685/

# Do You Know an Expert?

Do you know someone who is a...

- Teacher or staff member from school

- Friend, relative, or their friend

- Someone from non-government organization (NGO) (university, doctor, journalist, writer, embassy staff)

"Chitral International Workshop" by groundreporter, PhotosForClass.com, May 2014.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/16901703@N06/14249551342/

# More Project Planning Logistics

## Keep In Mind

- Permission from the school and parents (Do you need to talk to someone first?)

- Transportation (How will you get there?)

- Expenses (trash bags, meals)



Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones

# Student-Centered Projects



"Relationships" by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from PhotosForClass.com, September 2011. http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest/6214054247/

## Encouraging Student Success

- Plan early to allow for delays, other issues

- Focus on learning lessons and problem-solving. No project is perfect!

- Have fun! Students should enjoy learning. And teachers should, too!

# Final Reflection Questions For You

- Did you learn something new?

- Are you inspired to do a service-learning project?

- Could you use some of these ideas in your class/club?

Thank You for Participating!

Check Out the Follow Up Discussion on the Ning!

Ask questions or get more information!

# Post Webinar RESOURCES

- The University of Alabama: **A Checklist for Implementing Service-Learning in Higher Education,** June 8, 2012 http://jces.ua.edu/a-checklist-for-implementing-service-learning-in-higher-education/

- Edited by Sarena D Seifer and Kara Connors, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health for Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse **Faculty Toolkit for Service Learning in Higher Education,** 2007 http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/Assets/ServiceLearning/faculty-toolkit-for-service-learning.pdf

- United States Environmental Protection Agency: Service Learning http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/svclearn.pdf